

Conservation

Beautiful hiking trails lead through second-growth forest of Douglas-fir, Sitka spruce, western hemlock and western redcedar to the beach. You will find salal, Oregon grape and evergreen huckleberries and a large variety of ferns along the trails.

Once on the beach there are excellent whale-watching opportunities. These magnificent animals migrate to northern feeding grounds in the spring and return south in the fall. French Beach is an excellent location to observe seabirds, bald eagles and ospreys. Otters, seals and sea lions can be seen playing offshore.

Cultural Heritage

French Beach lies within the traditional territory of the T'Sou-ke First Nation. Their economy was based on hunting, fishing and gathering. Among the Straits Salish people lands and resources were owned by extended families but could not be sold, only inherited.

History

It took pioneer James French two adventurous years to travel from New Brunswick to Victoria. He pre-empted the land west of Sooke in 1885. An early naturalist, French travelled the world bringing exotic animals to zoos for public enjoyment and education. French once brought home a small African elephant shortly before selling it to the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. French died in 1952, survived by his family who continued to live on the property and play an active role in local logging. French had hoped that a much larger section of the west coast of Vancouver Island would be made into a provincial park. His home and favourite beach would become French Beach Provincial Park in 1974. Twenty years later, Juan de Fuca Provincial Park would further his dream.

What You Should Know



There are 69 campsites at this park. Campsite reservations are accepted. First-come, first-served sites are also available. For campsite reservations call 1-800-689-9025 or (604) 680-9025 or www.discovercamping.ca



There are no wilderness/walk-in campsites at this park.



There is a group campsite available. For more information refer to the BC Parks website or call (250) 474-1336.



There is a large, grassy day-use/picnicking area with picnic tables, a parking area and an adventure playground.



Some facilities and hiking trails in the park are wheelchair accessible.



Cold water taps are located throughout the park. Taps are shut off during the off season.



Only pit toilets are available. No flush toilets at this park.



There are no shower facilities at this park.



During the collecting season a sani-station/dump is available. A fee is charged for the service.



Firewood may be available for purchase. Campfire pits are provided. Group campfire facilities and/or limited burning hours may be designated at some campgrounds. Fire bans may be implemented during extremely hot weather conditions. Be prepared to bring a portable stove for cooking.



There is a one kilometre walking/hiking trail throughout the park to view the second-growth forest. For your own safety and preservation of the park, obey posted signs and keep to designated trails. Shortcutting trails destroys plant life and soil structure.



There is an adventure playground available at the day-use area in this park.



This park is located on the Pacific Ocean. The water is very cold. Bring good footwear, as you can walk along the sand and gravel beach watching the ocean waves. There are no life-guards on duty at provincial parks.



Canoeing and kayaking are not recommended due to the strong ocean currents.



No boat launch is available at this park.



Saltwater/ocean fishing. All anglers must have a valid fishing license; refer to current *BC Environment Fishing Regulations Synopsis*.



Bicycles must keep to roadways.



No horseback riding at this park.



Pets/domestic animals must be on a leash at all times and are not allowed in beach areas or park buildings. You are responsible for their behavior and must dispose of their excrement.

How to Get to the Park

The day-use and campground area is located on Hwy 14, 20 kilometres west of Sooke. Direction signs are posted.

Provincial Parks Nearby

Other provincial parks nearby are Goldstream Provincial Park, Bamberton Provincial Park and Juan de Fuca Provincial Park – China Beach Campground.

Park Fees

Open all year. Fees are collected for services from March 15 to October 31. There is a winter fee (with reduced services) charged from November 1 to March 14. Campers must be self-sufficient. If required, refer to the BC Parks website to confirm dates, as they may be subject to change.

Check-in: for reservation holders is 1 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; for non-reservation holders is 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. **Check-out:** is 11 a.m. **Gates open** at 7 a.m. and **close** at 11 p.m.

For More Information

BC Parks

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks>



Ministry of Water, Land
and Air Protection



04/2002



French Beach

PROVINCIAL PARK

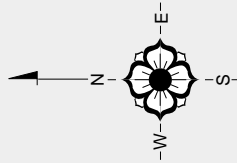


Welcome. This 59-hectare ocean front park along the Strait of Juan de Fuca offers trails, whale watching, secluded campsites and day-use area.

Vancouver Island

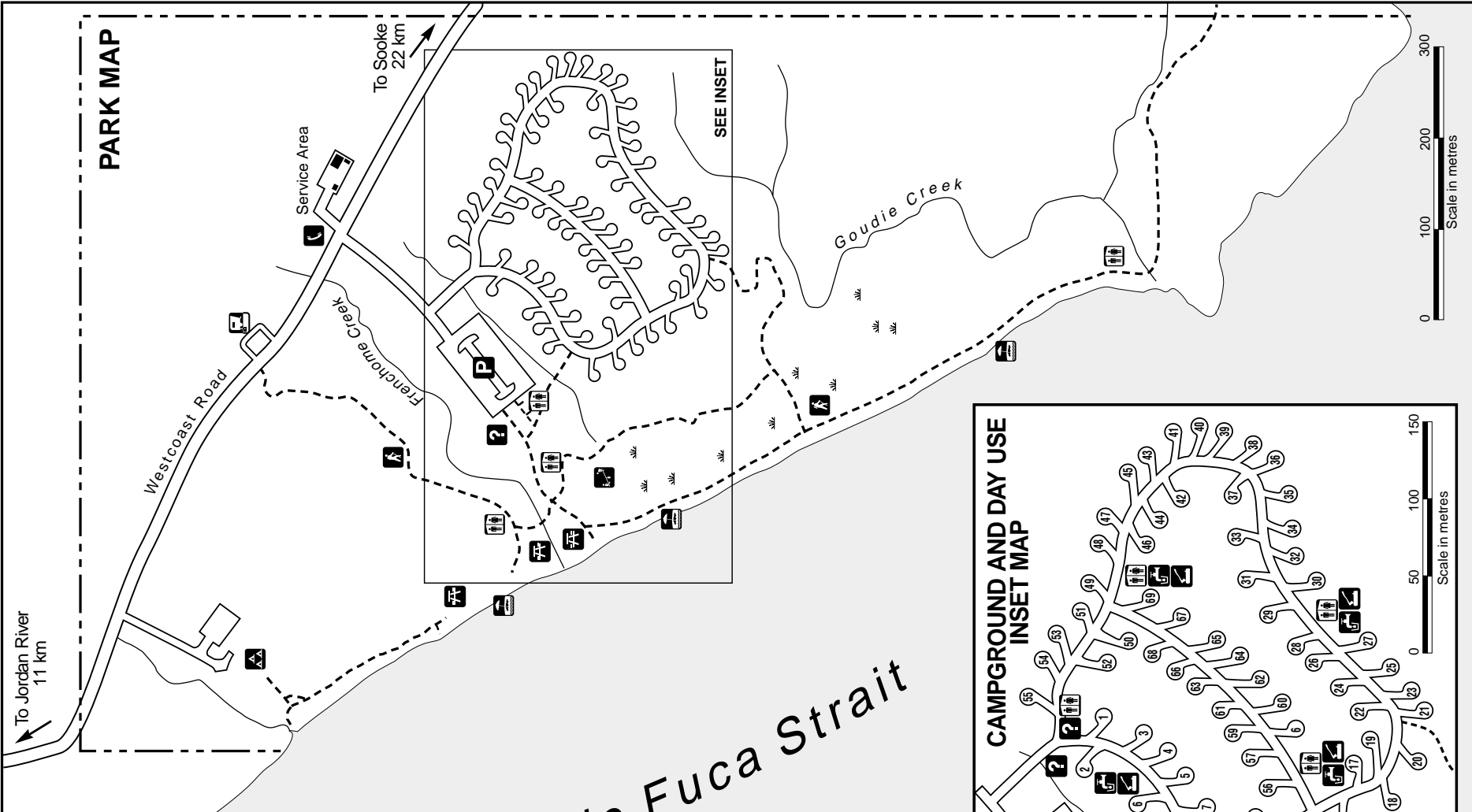
French Beach Provincial Park

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|---------------|
| | Parking | | Water |
| | Information | | Picnic Area |
| | Toilets | | Telephone |
| | Tent/Vehicle Camping | | Garbage Can |
| | Group Camping | | Beach Area |
| | Wood | | Trail |
| | Playground | | Park Boundary |
| | Sanitation station | | Marsh Area |

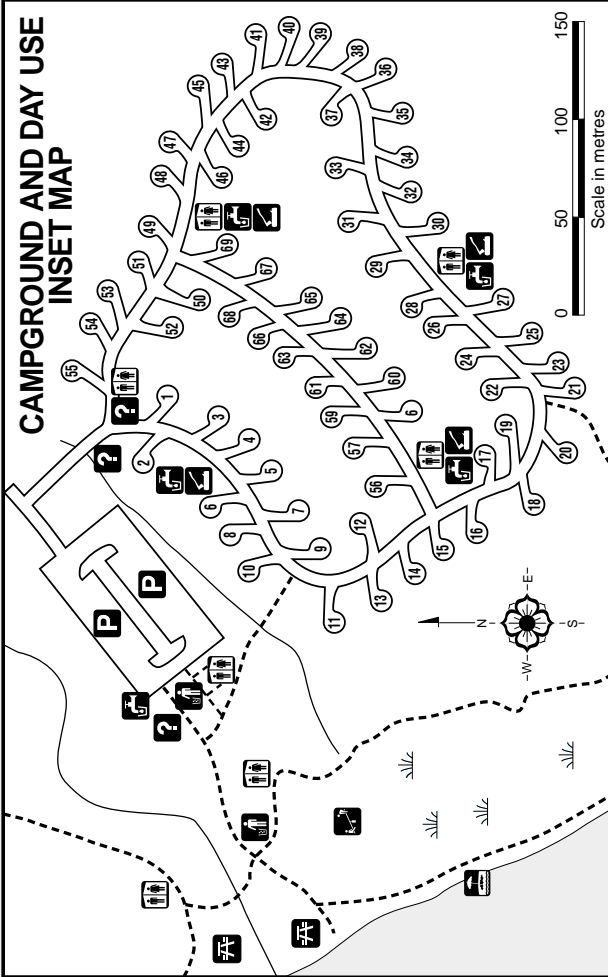


Juan de Fuca Strait

PARK MAP



SEE INSET



CAMPGROUND AND DAY USE INSET MAP



Safety

This is bear and cougar territory. Please exercise caution. Keep children close to you and pets on a leash and under control at all times. Never approach or feed bears or other animals. Store and dispose of your food and refuse so wildlife cannot get it. Use facilities provided. Familiarize yourself with additional bear and cougar information that may be posted on park information shelters. If you see bears or cougars, please report sightings to the Park Facility Operator, or call the Observe, Record, Report line at 1-800-663-9453. Flowers, trees and shrubs are part of the park's natural heritage. Please do not damage or remove them.

Wood ticks are most prevalent between March and June. These potentially disease-carrying parasites live in tall grass and low shrubs and seek out warm-blooded hosts. Protect your legs by wearing gaiters or pants tucked into socks. After any outdoor activity, thoroughly examine yourself, children and pets. If you find a tick embedded in your skin, the best way to remove it is by grasping and pulling it, gently, straight up and out with a small pair of tweezers, and disinfecting the site with rubbing alcohol. You may wish to save the tick in a small plastic or glass container for later inspection by your doctor especially if a fever develops, or the area around the bite appears to be infected.

Local Area

Thirteen kilometres northwest of French Beach is the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail. This 47-kilometre wilderness trail, stretching from China Beach to Botanical Beach offers day or multi-day hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities. The communities of Jordan River, Shirley and Sooke provide restaurant and other services for French Beach visitors. There are visitor information centres in Port Renfrew and Sooke.